

Lough & Ellis Timeline

- 1863 S.E. Ellis born in Peru, Illinois. He was the son of Richard Ellis (1829-1896) and Mary Bell (1826-1896).
- 1880 Fred Lough born. Place unknown. He was the son of Joseph R. Lough (1843-1914) and Hester Ann Hallock (1849-1919). Joseph R. Lough served in the Union Army in the 2nd Indiana unit in the Civil War.
- 1886 S.E. Ellis marries Agnes Richer in Fairbury. He was 23, she was 24.
- 1886 Joseph R. Lough admitted to the U.S. National Home for Disable Volunteer Soldiers at age 43. His son Fred Lough was 6 years old.
- 1890 Charles Ellis born in Forrest, Illinois.
- 1900 Census. S.E. Ellis is barber in Fairbury, age 37, living on Walnut Street. Wife is music teacher. Charles Ellis is in school, 10 years old.
- 1900 Census. Fred Lough is 20 years old, living in Indian Grove township and is a day laborer. His mother Hester is the head of the household and she is a restaurant keeper. His mother and father must have been divorced, he died in 1914.
- 1907 The April 26, 1907, issue of the Blade reported that Charles Ellis, the magician and Fred Lough have entered into a contract with the managers of Webster Park, near Peru, to exhibit on the park grounds during the summer months. Mr. Ellis has a large tent, black top, and they will give daily exhibitions during the season. Mrs. Ellis will accompany them as pianist and Bessie Dye will be the singing member of the company. They will make good amusement for the people. The season opens May 19.
- 1907 The August 2, 1907, Blade reported that readers should see the unwritten law next week at Lough & Ellis show. With Monarch Shows.
- 1908 The May 1, 1908, Blade reported S.E. Ellis and Fred Lough will open a picture show in the E. E. McDowell building now occupied by the Blevins saloon.

- 1908 The October 30, 1908, issue of the Blade repeated the same ad three times on one page of the newspaper.

era house, Tuesday evening, Nov. 3d.
Lough & Ellis will entertain you
at the Central opera house, Tuesday
Nov. 3d.
Try a package of Wheat Berries,
10c a package, at the Fairbury Sup-
ply Co.
Lough & Ellis will entertain you
at the Central opera house, Tuesday
Nov. 3d.
Try a package of O. P. T. buck-
wheat flour 10c a package.—Fairbury
Supply Co.
Lough & Ellis will entertain you
at the Central opera house, Tuesday
Nov. 3d.

- 1909 The March 12, 1909, Blade reported the Bon Ton quartet made a hit with the large audiences at the Lough & Ellis picture show last Saturday evening. The quartet consisted of Perry Keck, Aaron Sype, Cullie Huntoon and Him Patterson.

- 1909 The May 21, 1909, issue of the Blade had two mentions. The first mention was the Lough and Ellis Electric Theatre will give their usual matinee on Saturday. Come and see some good clear pictures, a beautifully illustrated song. First door east of Bon Ton.

The second mention was that two of the barber shops in this city have changed hands this week. Sam Fosdick has purchased the S.E. Ellis shop. Mr. Ellis will go out on the road for the Lough & Ellis shows. James Armstrong has bought the barber shop owned by his brother John.

- 1910 Census. S.E. Ellis is 48 years old, has his own barber shop, and is living on Maple Street. Son Charles is living at home, age 19, and gives his occupation as theatrical performer.
- 1910 Census. Fred Lough is 28 years old, single, is an electrician, and is living with his mother on Livingston Street. He notes he has his own picture shop. His mother Hester lists her occupation as running a rooming house.
- 1910 Census. Joseph R. Lough is living in Leavenworth, Kansas, and is divorced.

- 1912 The May 17, 1912, Blade reported the Lough & Ellis Associated Players who have been holding forth in the big tent west of the water tower the past week, have been playing to good houses in spite of the bad weather. Charles K. Ellis is taking the leading role in the plays.
- 1912 The July 1912 issue of the Chatsworth Plains Dealer newspaper reported that all next week, Lough & Ellis Show will exhibit in Chatsworth every evening next week. This aggregation of players produce only clean and entertaining plays. A band and orchestra is carried and the band will give free open air concerts upon the street each afternoon at about four o'clock and each evening at about seven o'clock. The play-going public of this community are assured good entertainment by Lough and Ellis.
- 1913 On January 10, 1913, the Gibson City newspaper reported that the Lough & Ellis tent show begins a week's engagement.
- 1913 The magazine The Moving Picture World reported that the East End picture show at Fairbury has been leased by Lough & Ellis, who have added vaudeville to the program of pictures. The Electric Theater has been sold by Ed Gavin, of Pontiac, to Amos Lower, of Williamsport, Indiana.
- 1913 The May of 1913 issue of the New York Clipper magazine had the following ad.



So the group was advertising for help for tent performances in 1913. Note the *Lough & Ellis Associated* terminology matches the old bass drum.

- 1914 Joseph R. Lough dies at age 70 in Milwaukee. He is buried in the Milwaukee Wood National Cemetery. Son Fred Lough was 34 years old when his father died.
- 1914 The May 8, 1914, issue of the Blade reported that Charles K. Ellis was playing a leading role in band. It reported the Lough & Ellis Associated Players, with Charles K. Ellis playing the leading role, will open the season here May 11.
- 1917 The June 8, 1917, issue of the Blade reported that Charles E. Ellis had signed up for the WWI draft. No record could be found that he actually served in WWI.
- 1917 Charles Ellis and his wife have a son, Donald Sullivan Ellis, born October 13, 1917, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

1917 The June 8, 1917, Blade had the following story.

TO ORGANIZE BAND.
Fairbury is to have a band all of its own, steps having been taken in that direction within the past week. All of the proposed members are "old heads" at the game of getting sweet tones out of the various musical instruments and with a few practices together will have a band that will be a credit to our town.
The membership up to the present time is as follows, with several more from the surrounding country who have signified their intention of joining: Ray Martin, J. E. Marceau, N. J. Foster, Charles Callaby, John Mowry, W. L. Kring, Patrick Loughran, Frank and Granville Masterson, Fred Lough, James Armstrong, W. A. Roth, John Darnall, E. W. Powers, Lee Travis.
They will play for the I. O. O. F. Memorial services Sunday.

1917 The June 29, 1917, Blade reported that Mr. and Mrs. Sam Ellis and Fred Lough leave Sunday, for Emporia, Kansas, where they will join Charles Ellis, who is playing there this week.

The same issue of the Blade ran an ad for S.E. Ellis.

FOR SALE—My residence property.
Lot 75x150 feet, six rooms, modern.
—S. E. Ellis. ctf

1919 The April 28th Pantagraph reported the Lough & Ellis are fixing up the vacant lot west of their garage for a parking place for autos.

1919 The October 3, 1919, issue of the Blade has several mentions.

GARAGE SOLD.
Lough & Ellis this week sold their garage on East Locust street to Lee Brown, who took possession on Wednesday.

Fred Lough went to work with the Wade Motor company this week.

and friends.

Sam Ellis has accepted a position in Bert Monroe's barber shop and commenced work yesterday.

Rebekahs Celebrate Anniversary.

The Rebekah lodge celebrated the 61st birthday of their order with a program and banquet at the I. O. O. F. lodge rooms Monday evening.

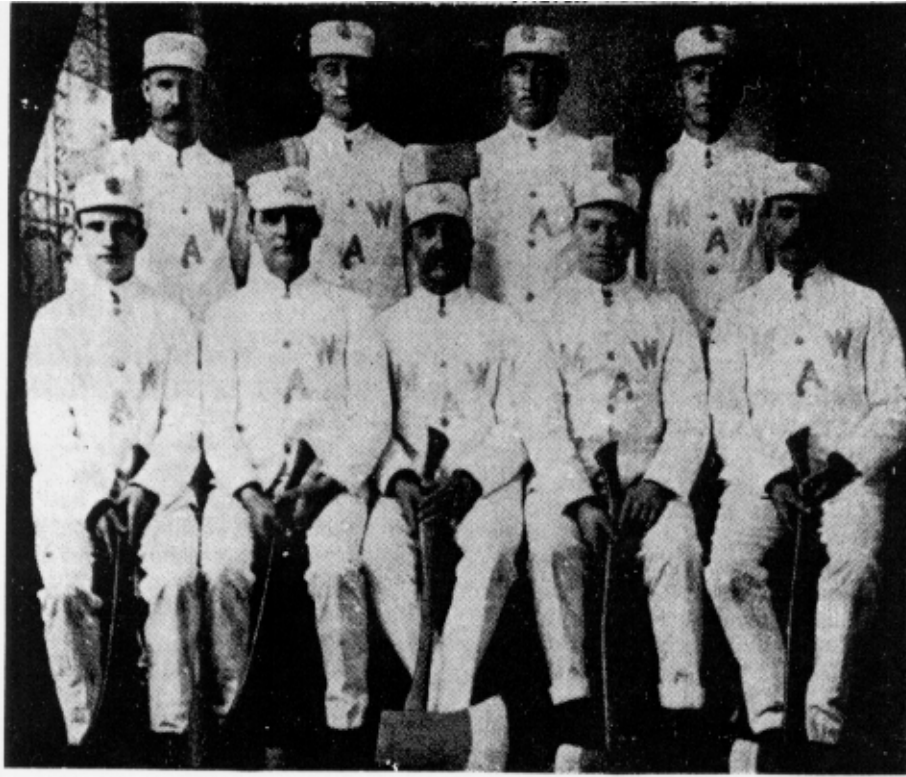
Mrs. Bert Carter told in a most interesting way the story of Odd Fellowship from its modest beginning in the city of Baltimore in 1819, when five men, in spite of serious obstacles, established the Order of Odd Fellows, which has grown to a membership of over 2,000,000. And of the later organization of the Daughters of Rebekah, on September 20, 1857, with its remarkable growth to nearly a million members.

Musical numbers which delighted everyone were given, solos sung by Joe Chapman and Isam Travis, a piano duet by Miss Vivian Cox and Miss Ruth Schertz, and a tuba solo by Fred Lough. A reading by Mrs. Jesse Goslin and one by her little daughter, Janice, were greatly enjoyed.

The banquet which followed the program was partaken of by two hundred members and guests.

- 1920 Census. S.E. Ellis is 56 years old, is a barber, and has his own barber shop. He lives at 304 West Maple street. His wife Agnes lives with him. Fred Lough, age 39, is living with them as a boarder, he gives his occupation as machinist in a garage.
- 1920 Census. Fred Lough, age 39, is living with S.E. Ellis, age 56, and his wife Agnes Ellis, age 56, on West Maple Street in Fairbury. He lists his occupation as machinist in a garage.
- 1920 Charles E. Ellis, age 30, marries Eda Ray Thompson (1896-1968).

- 1920 In an undated Blade photo, there is a photo of Fred Lough. This picture was probably taken before he moved to Aurora in 1923.



MODERN WOODSMEN OF AMERICA once had Fairbury chapter. Shown above are left to right, top row, Albert Wapels, Sam A. Demler, William Demler, William Hallock. In front row are Bess E. Demler, Joe Denarske, Frank Combs, Fred Lough and William Morton.

- 1922 The May 19, 1922 issue of the Blade reported the Methodist Sunday School orchestra was invited to play at the county convention at Pontiac Tuesday evening, and under the direction of W. Logan Kring presented a most creditable program. Those composing the orchestra are: W. Logan Kring, Fred Lough, etc.
- 1923 The wife of S.E. Ellis, Agnes Clemence Richer(1862–1923), died in Fairbury. She was age 61.
- 1923 On July 13, 1923, the Blade reported that Fred Lough left Monday for Aurora, where he had a position as an electrician, and where he will reside. He will also play in the Commandery Band in that city.
- 1930 Census. S.E. Ellis, age 66, is living with his wife Effie at 209 North First Street in Fairbury. He lists his occupation as barber in his own barber shop.

- 1930 Census. Charles Ellis age 38, is living with his wife, and their son Donald at 2746 Hamden Court, Chicago. He lists his occupation as stage hand in the theatre industry.
- 1930 Census. Fred Lough, 47 years old, is living with his wife Lydia at 408 Rose Wood in Aurora. He gives his occupation as electricity working for a contractor. They are the only two people in the household.
- 1933 Charles Ellis applies for a Seaman's Protection Application at the Port of New York. The application says he was born in Forrest, Illinois, and was living in Chicago. The certificate includes his photograph and was found on Ancestry.com. This document was used as a passport for sailors or people working on a ship. His ship occupation was left blank on the form.



- 1935 S.E. Ellis died at age 72 in Fairbury.
- 1940 Census. Charles Ellis is age 60 and is divorced. He lived by himself in the N. Dearborn Raleigh Hotel in Chicago, Illinois. He listed his occupation as a stage hand. He also listed that he only finished 2 years of high school.

- 1940 Census. Amos Fred Lough, age 60, is living with his wife Lydia at 408 Rose Wood in Aurora. He listed his occupation as electrician. He noted he only completed the 7th grade in school.
- 1944 Donald S. Ellis marries Mary Francis Mason (1911-1998). They never have any children.
- 1950 Charles Ellis, age 59, died in Kansas City, Missouri. The March 4, 1950, Chicago Tribune reported that Charles K. Ellis, age 59, at Kansas City, MO., 2 Mar. 1950. Beloved husband of Fairy Ellis. Masonic services Sunday, March 5, 2 PM, Culp Funeral Home, Goshen, Ind., Chief Electrician of road show "Oklahoma."
- 1951 Donald S. Ellis died in Chicago.
- 1956 Fred Lough passed away at aged 76 in Aurora. He is buried there.
- 1959 Lydia, wife of Fred Lough, passed away at age 72.

Summary

S.E. Ellis was a musically inclined barber. He married a music teacher. Their only child was a son, Charles Ellis. The son, Charles Ellis, sometimes used E and sometimes K as his middle initial. Charles Ellis worked as an entertainer his entire life. He was an actor, musician, and magician.

Fred Lough's father was a Civil War veteran. He apparently was disabled and checked into a disable home for veterans in 1886 when he was 43 years old. His son was only six years old when his father checked into the Kansas home for disabled veterans. Fred basically grew up without a father. It is likely that S.E. Ellis was the father figure in Fred's life. Fred Lough was a musician and an electrician.

The first printed reference to Lough & Ellis occurred in the April 26, 1907, Blade. This article reported Charles Ellis, the magician, and Fred Lough have entered into a contract with the managers of Webster Park, near Peru, to exhibit on the park grounds during the summer months. Mr. Ellis has a large tent, black top, and they will give daily exhibitions during the season. Mrs. Ellis will accompany them as pianist and Bessie Dye will be the singing member of the company. They will make good amusement for the people. The season opens May 19.

So, the wife of S.E. Ellis, who was a music teacher, went with the two boys to Peru to help give their performances. Charles Ellis was 17 years old, and Fred Lough was 27 years old. Mrs. Ellis was 45 years old.

In 1908, the barber S.E. Ellis and Fred Lough opened a picture show in the E. E. McDowell building. This was likely the first moving picture show to open in Fairbury.

In 1908, Lough & Ellis were putting on performances in the Central Opera House.

In 1909, barber S.E. Ellis and Fred Lough continue to operate their Lough and Ellis Electric Theatre, including Saturday matinees. Mr. Ellis, the barber sold his barber shop so he could to out on the road with the Lough and Ellis shows.

In 1912, Lough & Ellis Associated Players were performing in a big tent west of the water tower. Charles K. Ellis took the leading role in the plays. This is the first printed mention of the name Lough & Ellis Associated Players, which is the name on the bass drum returned to Fairbury in 2018.

The Lough & Ellis show also performed in Chatsworth

In 1913, the Lough & Ellis tent show performed in Gibson City. It was reported that the East End picture show at Fairbury has been leased by Lough & Ellis, who have added vaudeville to the program of pictures.

Lough & Ellis ran an ad in the New York Clipper magazine looking for actors and musicians to come work in Fairbury.

In 1914, the Lough & Ellis Associated Players, with Charles K. Ellis playing the leading role, opened their season in Fairbury on May 11.

By 1917, Charles Ellis was traveling around the United States, including Oklahoma. He had a son, Donald Sullivan Ellis, born October 13, 1917, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He married Eda Ray Thompson (1896-1968) in 1920, in Oklahoma.

In 1917, Fairbury formed a municipal band. Fred Lough was a member. Charles Ellis was not listed as a member, because he had probably left Fairbury and was on the road. In June, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Ellis and Fred Lough went to Emporia, Kansas, to join Charles Ellis, who was playing there.

In April of 1919, the barber Sam Ellis and Fred Lough try their hand at running an automotive garage. This did not work out, and by October, Sam Ellis went back to work as a barber. Fred Lough went to work as a mechanic at the Wade Motor company in Fairbury.

In 1922, Fred Lough continued to be active as a musician in Fairbury. He participated in the Methodist Sunday School orchestra.

In 1923, the wife of Sam Ellis, Agnes Clemence Richer(1862–1923), died in Fairbury. She was age 61. Fred Lough then left Fairbury and moved to Aurora to work as an electrician. Fred Lough joined the Aurora Commandery Band.

By 1930, S.E. Ellis, age 66, re-married and was living with his wife Effie at 209 North First Street in Fairbury. He was a barber in his own barber shop.

Charles Ellis, age 38, was living with his wife and their son Donald at 2746 Hamden Court, Chicago. He listed his occupation as stage hand in the theatre industry.

Fred Lough, 47 years old, was living with his wife Lydia at 408 Rose Wood in Aurora. He was an electrician working for a contractor. They had no children.

In 1933, Charles Ellis applied for a Seaman's Protection Certificate at the Port of New York. He was likely working as an entertainer on a ship.

In 1935, S.E. Ellis, the musical barber, died at age 72 in Fairbury.

In 1940, Charles Ellis was aged 60 and was divorced. He lived by himself in the N. Dearborn Raleigh Hotel in Chicago, Illinois. His census occupation was stage hand. He also listed that he only finished 2 years of high school.

Amos Fred Lough, aged 60, was living with his wife Lydia at 408 Rose Wood in Aurora. On the Census, he listed his occupation as electrician. He noted he only completed the 7th grade in school.

In 1944, Donald S. Ellis marries Mary Francis Mason (1911-1998). They never have any children.

In 1950, Charles Ellis, age 59, died in Kansas City, Missouri. He was buried in Goshen, Indiana. His death notice identified him as Chief Electrician of road show "Oklahoma."

In 1951, Donald S. Ellis died in Chicago.

In 1956, Fred Lough passed away at aged 76 in Aurora. He is buried there.

In 1959, Lydia, wife of Fred Lough, passed away at age 72.

In the case of both of these families, their families died out in terms of successive generations. There were no heirs to leave the bass drum that was returned to Fairbury in late 2018. It is possible that S.E. Ellis, the barber, had the drum, and it was sold after he died in Fairbury in 1935.

